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Message Text

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51
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 PRS-01 L-03

TRSE-00 OMB-01 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

XMB-07 RSR-01 /094 W
---------- 107655
P R 311130Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4877
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0756

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP, GB
SUBJ: SALE OF DC-8 TO GABONESE FIRM

REF: STATE 172481, STATE 172569 (NOTAL)

1. STANDARD LEGAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCORPORATION OF AFFRETAIR DATED MAY 27, 1970 NOTED INTER ALIA COMPANY HAS AS OBJECT IMPORT-EXPORT OF GOODS, IS A COMMON CARRIER, WILL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF OTHER TRANSPORT COMPANIES. REGISTERED CAPITAL, AS IS NORMAL, WAS A NOMINAL CFA 5,000,000 (C. US DOLS 24,000), TOTALLY SUBSCRIBED BY GERARD DURAND, DIRECTOR, AND MBOUMBA CELESTIN. NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE RE: MBOUMBA. DURAND IS A LOCALLY PROMINENT FRENCH BUSINESSMAN RESIDENT IN LIBREVILLE SOME FIFTEEN YEARS WHO OPERATES BUTCHER SHOP AND WINE IMPORTING AND BOTTLING COMPANY.

2. OTHER THAN ABOVE LOCAL HARD INFORMATION ON AFFRETAIR IS NON-EXISTENT.

3. CUSTOMS RECORDS NOT AVAILABLE BUT PLANE FIRST APPEARED IN LIBREVILLE DURING MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1972.
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4. GABONESE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF DC-8 WHICH
AFFRETAIR FLIES INTO LIBREVILLE IS TR-LQR. LETTER
FROM MINCIVAV NOTES SERIAL NUMBER RESERVED FOR DC-8
IS 45821. WE UNABLE TO CONFIRM SERIAL NUMBER FROM
SOURCE INDEPENDENT OF THIS LETTER.

5. COPY OF LETTER OF JULY 3, 1972 WILL BE IN POUCH
THAT LEAVES LIBREVILLE SEPTEMBER 1. THERE ARE NO MEMCONS
WITH GOG OFFICIALS ON THIS SUBJECT.

6. CHARGE INFORMED AUGUST GEP THAT MINISTER OF TRANSPORT
AND CIVIL AVIATION ESSONGHE OUT OF COUNTRY AND WOULD NOT
RETURN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 3 OR 4. BECAUSE OTHERS IN
MINISTRY ARE MERE TECHNICIANS AND DUE IMPENDING DEPARTURE
LEADING GABONESE OFFICIALS FOR ALGIERS CONFERENCE,
CHARGE SPOKE AUGUST 31 WITH PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR
MOUVAGHA. CHARGE DISCUSSED DC-8 PROBLEM ALONG LINES
SUGGESTED IN STATE 172569. MOUVAGHA LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY,
SAID HE WAS CERTAIN GOG WOULD WISH TO "COOPERATE WITH
USG". HE TELEPHONED MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND
CONFIRMED THAT ESSONGHE WOULD NOT RETURN UNTIL WEEK
OF SEPTEMBER 3. HE THEN EXCUSED HIMSELF AND MADE
TELEPHONE CALL "TO FOREIGN MINISTRY" FROM ADJOINING
OFFICE. UPON RETURN HE SUGGESTED EMBASSY SEND NOTE
VERBALE TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CITING PRESS
COMMENTS ON USE OF DC-8 AND REQUESTING RENEWED
ASSURANCES ON ITS EMPLOYMENT. CHARGE THANKED MOUVAGHA
AND SAID WE WOULD CONSIDER USE OF NOTE VERBALE AND
IN ANY CASE ATTEMPT CONTACT ESSONGHE UPON HIS RETURN.

7. COMMENT: IN ABSENCE OF ESSONGHE AND GENERAL
PREOCCUPATION OF GOG OFFICIALS WITH ALGIERS CONFERENCE,
SUGGEST THAT NOTE VERBALE IS BEST AVAILABLE AVENUE
TO BRING DC-8 TO MATTTER OF ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE
HIGH LEVEL IN GOG. WITH DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE,
EMBASSY WILL SEND NOTE VERBALE (PROPOSED TEXT VIA SEPTEL)
AND FOLLOW UP WITH ESSONGHE AS SOON AS HE IS AVAILABLE.
COUNTRYMAN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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